

Your Privacy

About the Texas Birth Defects Registry

The Texas Birth Defects Registry is a program at the Texas Department of State Health Services that collects information about babies born with birth defects. We do this to help answer some important questions about birth defects. For example, where are children being born with birth defects? Do birth defects affect some groups more than others? What causes different types of birth defects? Are there ways to prevent them?

We also want to help Texas children born with a birth defect and their families get the help they need.



Families may wonder why the Texas Birth Defects Registry has information about their child, why we have their mailing address, and how else we might use this information. Please know that information about children with birth defects and their families is confidential and regulated by law. The state law that directed the Texas Department of State Health Services to begin collecting this information (*Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 87*) has very strict rules about your privacy and about keeping information confidential. Information can only be used in ways to improve public health, such as tracking the rates of birth defects, researching causes of birth defects, and for education and prevention activities. It is also used to let families know about available services, such as through this brochure.

For more information, please contact:

Texas Birth Defects Registry
Texas Department of
State Health Services
1100 West 49th Street
Austin, TX 78756
Phone: (512) 458-7232 or
1-888-963-7111, Ext.7232
Fax: (512) 458-7330

Email
birthdefects@dshs.state.tx.us

Website
www.dshs.state.tx.us/birthdefects

Does your child have special needs?



Look inside for helpful information

Texas Birth Defects Registry



Sometimes families wonder where to get help for a child with a birth defect or other special needs. This brochure tells about some places Texas families can get help. If you have a child with a birth defect or other special needs, your family might find this information useful now or in the future.

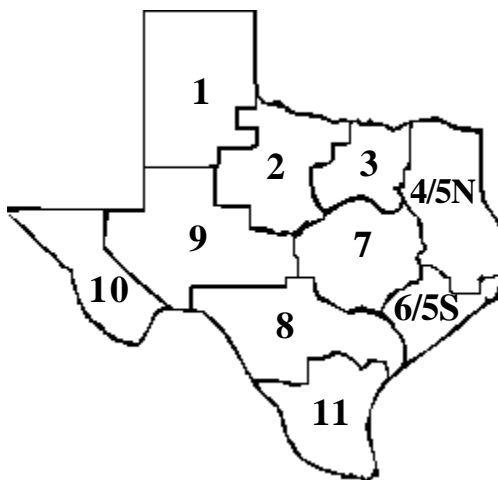


What are Birth Defects?

Birth defects are problems that occur in the baby's development before birth. Every year more than 13,000 Texas babies are born with a birth defect. Some birth defects can be seen right away, but others are found when the baby is a little older. Some children with birth defects do not have major problems, but others may need special help. For example, a child with a birth defect may need special help learning to walk or talk, or may have many medical expenses. This depends on the type of birth defect and how serious it is.

Help for Children with Special Needs

Texas Department of State Health Services Social Workers are located around the state and can help you find out about programs available to help your child. To learn more, call the office closest to you and ask to speak to the Social Worker on call.



Region 1	(806) 655-7151
Region 2/3	(817) 264-4627 or 264-4632
Region 4/5N	(903) 533-5231
Region 6/5S	(713) 767-3111
Region 7	(254) 778-6744
Region 8	(210) 949-2155
Region 9	(432) 683-9492
Region 10	(915) 834-7691
Region 11	(956) 423-0130

Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) serves families that have babies and children, up to age 3, with disabilities or delays in their development. ECI staff work with the family to plan services for the child's particular needs. These services and activities are provided at home and in the community. Call 1-800-250-2246 or go to www.dars.state.tx.us/ecis/.

2-1-1 is a free telephone number you can call from anywhere in Texas to get information about available health and human services in your community. When you dial 2-1-1, your call goes to an Area Information Center serving your part of the state. A trained specialist will talk to you and give you information about services available for your needs. Callers from outside of Texas or those experiencing technical problems connecting to 2-1-1 can dial 877-541-7905 (toll-free). More information can be found at www.211texas.org.

www.yourtexasbenefits.com offers easy and secure online access to Texas Health and Human Services Commission benefits including Medicaid, Food Stamps, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Children's Health Insurance, and nursing home care and other services. You can also search the **Texas Health and Human Services Commission Reference Guide** for specialized state programs at www.hhs.state.tx.us/tirn/refguide.shtml. Programs include community-based services so that children with disabilities can remain in their own homes and communities, Medical Transportation Program, the Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program, and many more.